

Abstract 599

TITLE: Perceptions and Beliefs About Middle Level School Teachers' Professional Preparation in HIV Prevention Education

AUTHOR: Fortune, DA (American Association for Health Education)

BACKGROUND: The purpose of this study was to explore perceptions and beliefs of middle-level school teachers regarding their professional preparation in HIV prevention education and health education.

METHODS: A series of six focus group interviews were used to gather the data from middle-level school teachers.

RESULTS: The findings revealed the following themes: 1) most of the participants felt the health/safety needs, including HIV prevention, of their students were not addressed in their professional preparation programs; 2) most of the participants felt they needed in service training on HIV prevention information and other related health content areas; and 3) most participants indicated they needed to develop skills on how to talk/relate to students who are infected with HIV.

CONCLUSIONS: Many middle-level school teachers lack the appropriate professional preparation in HIV prevention education and health education. Many middle-level school teachers lack skills to relate and address the needs of students infected with HIV.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Deborah A. Fortune

Address: 1900 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Telephone: (703) 476-3439

Fax: (703) 476-6638

E-mail: dfortune@aahperd.org